

AP

WAR
PICTURE
LIBRARY
N° 17
10^d

COMMANDOS DIE HARD

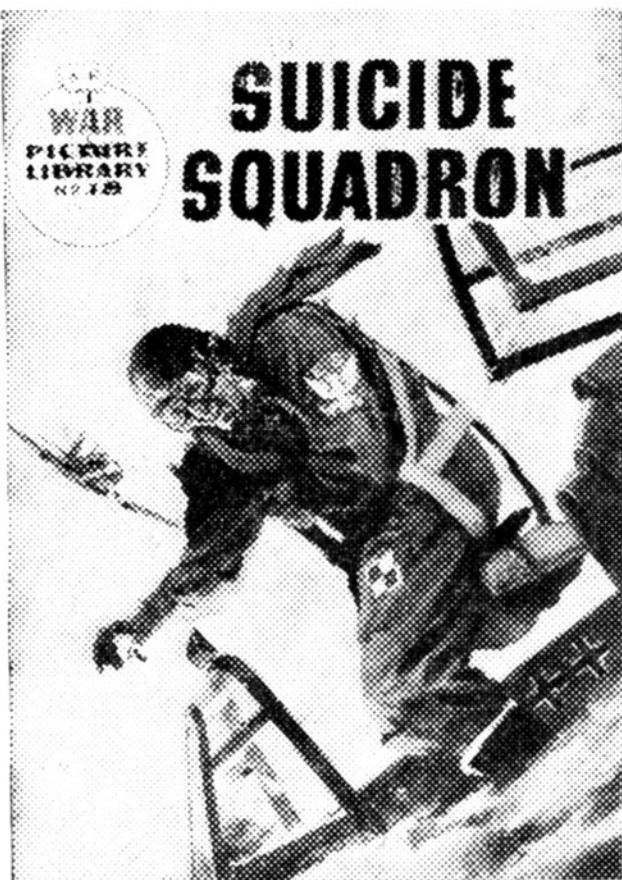


ALSO ON SALE NOW
**WAR PICTURE
LIBRARY NO. 18**

**SUICIDE
SQUADRON**

The price was high—life itself. But it was paid in full! The thrilling story of the first volunteer squadron of its kind to fly with the R.A.F.

DON'T FORGET!



**FOR THRILLS . . . ACTION . . . DRAMA . . . BUY
WAR PICTURE LIBRARY**

Next month's two exciting issues, which will be on sale Monday, 15th June, are:

- NO. 19—THE CALL OF DUTY**
- NO. 20—ROCKET TYPHOONS**

Order your copies today!

COMMANDOS DIE HARD

OF ALL THE FIGHTING MEN OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR NONE WERE MORE HATED OR FEARED BY BRITAIN'S ENEMIES THAN THE SOLDIERS AND ROYAL MARINES OF THE COMMANDO BRIGADES... TRAINED ONLY TO ATTACK. THE PROUD WEARERS OF THE GREEN BERET EARNED UNDYING FAME AND GLORY ON BATTLEFIELDS THE WORLD OVER BEFORE THE WAR'S END. WHEREVER THEY RAIDED, WHATEVER THE ODDS, NOTHING COULD DAUNT THEM AS THEY PROVED THAT... COMMANDOS WERE A SPECIAL BREED OF MEN!



Chapter 1. DANGEROUS JOURNEY

LATE 1942: THE CONVOYS WERE BATTLED THROUGH TO RUSSIA WITH VITAL WAR MATERIAL ON THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE TO MURMANSK--THE MOST HAZARDOUS SEA PASSAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WAR. AS THAT WINTER SET IN ALLIED SHIPS FOUGHT THROUGH RAGING SNOW BLIZZARDS, SEAS INFESTED WITH ICE FLOES. ENEMY SUBMARINES, SURFACE RAIDERS AND, WORST OF ALL... SWARMS OF DIVE BOMBERS AND TORPEDO AIRCRAFT ATTACKED THE CONVOYS FROM GERMAN BASES INSIDE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE IN OCCUPIED NORWAY



Commandos Die Hard

3

THE GALLANT CONVOY RQ5, AFTER BEATING FOUL WEATHER AND TWO U-BOAT PACKS, WAS FINALLY SHATTERED A FEW MILES FROM ITS PORT OF ARRIVAL BY MARAUDING AIRCRAFT.

WE WIN THROUGH JUST TO MEET UP WITH THESE DEVILS -- AND NOT A BRICK LEFT TO THROW AT THEM! US TWO WEEKS AT SEA ... AND THEM FRESH FROM A HOT BREAKFAST IN NORWAY!



THEY CAN HAVE NORTH CAPE FOR ME UNTIL THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE JERRY AIRCRAFT. SHIPS GO DOWN, GOOD MEN DIE, ALL OUR WORK GOES FOR NOTHING!

THE FIGHTING MEN WERE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CONSIDERED SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO PROTECT THE CONVOYS FROM THE SAVAGE AIR ATTACKS. IN LONDON, SERVICE CHIEFS MET TO THRASH OUT THE PROBLEM.

ESCORT CARRIERS ARE NOT THE COMPLETE ANSWER TO THESE ATTACKS. AS IN THE CASE OF THE LAST CONVOY, ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS OFTEN FORCE OUR SHIPS TO TURN BACK BEFORE NORTH CAPE. WE ARE DESPERATELY SHORT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AS WELL.

THE RUSSIANS HAVE BOMBED THE AIRFIELD USED BY THE GERMAN SQUADRONS AT NORTH CAPE, BUT IT HAS MADE LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO ITS EFFICIENCY. THE PRIME MINISTER INSISTS SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THAT AIRFIELD BEFORE OUR NEXT CONVOY!



4 Commandos Die Hard

AN OPPRESSIVE SILENCE FOLLOWED, THEN ONE MAN ROSE DETERMINEDLY TO HIS FEET. HE WAS THE MOST JUNIOR OFFICER PRESENT--A COLONEL OF THE NEWLY FORMED THIRTEENTH COMMANDO REGIMENT.

I HAVE THE VERY MEN WHO COULD MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THAT AIRFIELD --MORE THAN THE GERMANS WOULD EVER IMAGINE. GENTLEMEN, THE FIGHTING THIRTEENTH OFFER YOU A SPECIAL DEMOLITION UNIT TRAINED FOR WINTER WARFARE. THEY WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WRECK THE PLACE FOR YOU!

TELL US MORE OF THESE MEN. THEY MAY WELL BE THE ONLY ANSWER WE HAVE!



SOMEWHERE IN SCOTLAND, THREE COMMANDO CHUMS WERE PREPARING FOR LEAVE. THEY WERE HUGE CORPORAL ED. NELSON, D.C.M., EX-GRENADIER GUARDS; MARINE PIERRE LAFARGE, LATE OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION; AND SMALL, LEAN-FEATURED PRIVATE "BRAINS" FULLER. AN UNWELCOME VISITOR ENTERED THEIR BILLET



... AND IN NORTHERN NORWAY, AT THE GERMAN AIR BASE, HAMMERFEST, A PORTLY LUFTWAFFE GENERAL CONGRATULATED THE STATION COMMANDER ON RECENT SUCCESSES...

THE FUHRER IS DELIGHTED WITH THE WORK OF YOUR SQUADRONS, COLONEL ZIMMER! YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED WHERE THE GERMAN NAVY HAS FAILED. SOON THE BRITISH WILL NOT DARE TO ATTEMPT THE NORTHERN ROUTE TO RUSSIA. THE FATHERLAND SALUTES YOU!

TELL OUR LEADER THE CONVOYS WILL CEASE! NOTHING CAN STOP US... WE WILL SMASH EVERY ATTEMPT THE BRITISH MAKE TO REACH RUSSIA WITH SUPPLIES!

OUTSIDE THE SQUADRON OFFICE, TWO GERMAN SENTRIES TALKED AS THEY GUARDED THE AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE THE SCOURGE OF THE RUSSIAN RUN...

ACH, KURT! WE WASTE OUR TIME. NO ONE COULD ATTACK US HERE... IT IS THE VERY END OF THE EARTH!

LET THEM COME, ANYWAY. IT WOULD BE SUICIDE! THEY WOULD LEAVE THEIR BONES HERE ~ AND PERHAPS WE WOULD EARN A GOOD LEAVE IN GERMANY...

Commandos Die Hard

BUT IN ENGLAND PLANS WERE ALREADY BEING LAID. A SPECIAL DEMOLITION SQUAD OF THE THIRTEENTH COMMANDO HEARD OF THE GERMAN AIRFIELD AT A HURRIEDLY-ARRANGED BRIEFING... WITH THE NEXT NORTHERN CONVOY ALREADY MUSTERED, IT WAS TIME FOR AN ATTACK....

... SO TONIGHT YOU LEAVE WITH CAPTAIN SELBY TO STRIKE GOOD AND HARD AT HAMMERFEST AIRFIELD. PASSAGE WILL BE BY SUBMARINE. I KNOW YOU'LL DO WELL. GOOD LUCK!



SO THE PICKED MEN OF THE FIGHTING THIRTEENTH WENT TO WAR -- BY SUBMARINE, WITH FIVE COLLAPSIBLE RAFTS WHICH WERE HURRIEDLY STOWED BELOW . . .

MAKING
SAIFISH A
BLOOMING TROOP
CARRIER NOW,
IT SEEMS.
WHAT'S THIS
LOT UP TO?



Commandos Die Hard

7

THE COMMANDOS WERE DETAILED TO A FORWARD MESS-DESK... THE CRAMPED SPARE TORPEDOES COMPARTMENT.

MAKE WAY FOR THE HEROIC COMMANDOS! THEY'VE COME TO SHOW US HOW TO FIGHT...



Commandos Die Hard

FULLER SUDDENLY WENT INTO ACTION. USING A SIMPLE JUDO TRICK, HE HURLED THE HUGE SAILOR TO THE DECK.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, OLD CHAP!

I THINK MAYBE WE ALL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER NOW, EH ?

LET'S MAKE OURSELVES AT HOME .

IN RECORD TIME, BEFORE A SERIOUS GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICERS WATCHING FROM THE SUBMARINE PARENT SHIP, SAIFISH NOSED SEAWARD FROM THE SCOTTISH HARBOUR ... DESTINATION ENEMY TERRITORY !

WEATHER'S BREAKING ... TO DO THEIR MISSION BEFORE THE NEXT CONVOY REACHES NORTH CAPE WILL MEAN SURFACE SAILING MOST OF THE TIME. THEY'RE IN FOR A VERY ROUGH TRIP! I PITY THOSE SOLDIERS

MY BOYS ARE TOUGH. I ALMOST PITY THOSE GERMANS AT HAMMERFEST !

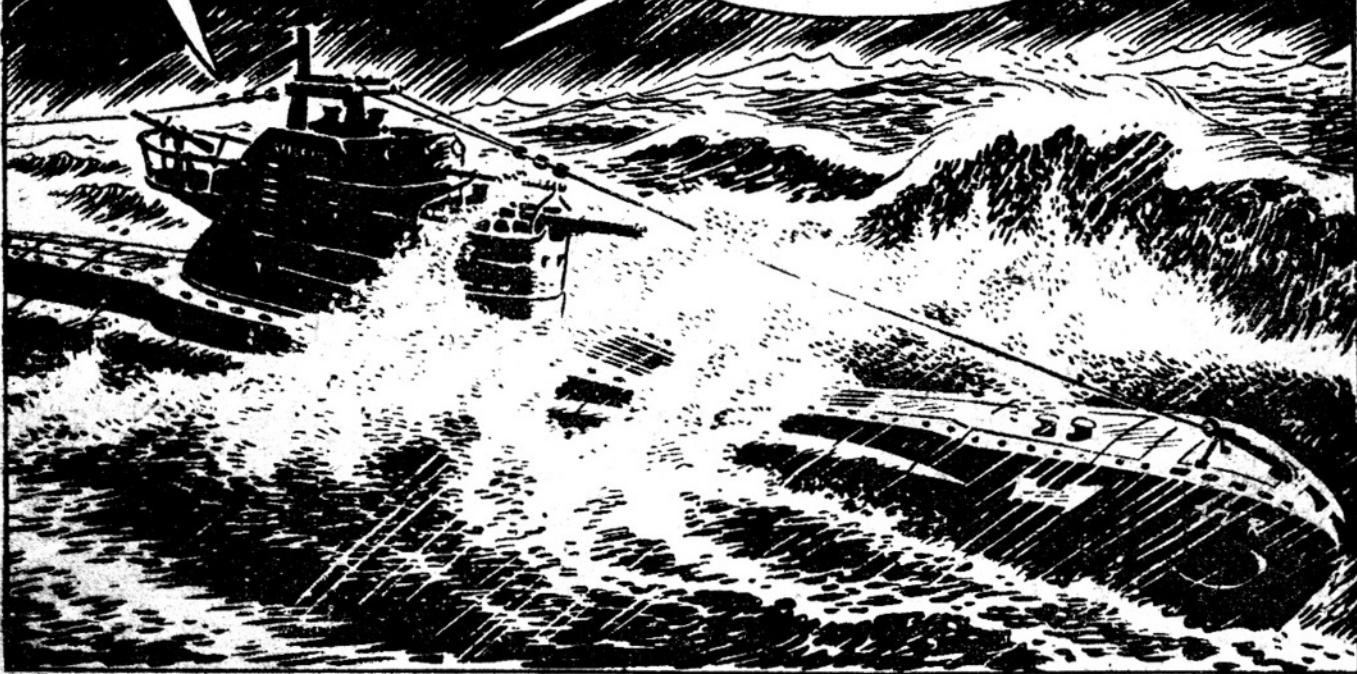
Commandos Die Hard

9

FOR SEVERAL DAYS THE SUBMARINE GRIMLY BATTLED HER WAY THROUGH MOUNTAINOUS SEAS, SUBMERGING ONLY IN THE DIREST EMERGENCIES, USING MAXIMUM SURFACE SPEED.

WISH THE SKIPPER WOULD LET US SUBMERGE. DOES HE THINK WE'RE A BLINKING DESTROYER?

HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. GOT TO MAKE ALL THE SPEED WE CAN THIS TRIP ...



THE COMMANDOS HAD FOUND IT NO PLEASURE CRUISE!

WHAT'S UP, BOYS? DON'T YOU LIKE CRUISING?

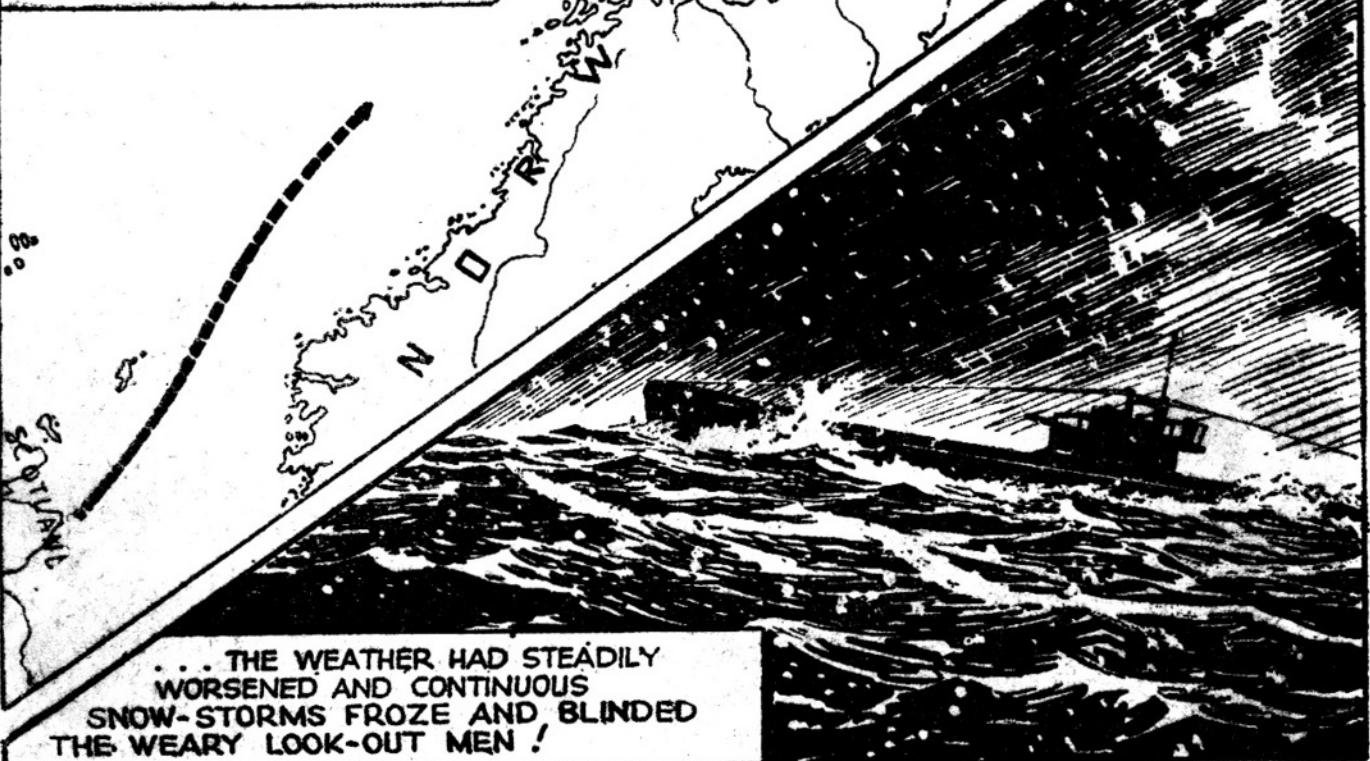
WAIT TILL WE MEET SOME WEATHER!

FOR ... HITLER.

AFTER THIS IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO MEET THOSE GERMANS ...

Commandos Die Hard!

FOR WELL OVER ONE THOUSAND MILES, THE GALLANT SAILFISH STROVE TOWARDS THE GOAL. HER EAGER PASSENGERS MUST REACH ...



... THE WEATHER HAD STEADILY WORSENED AND CONTINUOUS SNOW-STORMS FROZE AND BLINDED THE WEARY LOOK-OUT MEN !

... BUT DURING ONE BRIEF BREAK IN THE STORM, THE SNOW-BLINDED LOOK-OUT RUBBED RED-RIMMED EYES AS HE STARED AT A MOST UNWELCOME SIGHT ...



THE ENEMY LOOK-OUTS HAD KEPT A TAUT WATCH AS WELL ...

HERR KAPITAN!
UNTERSEEBOOT!
STARBOARD
QUARTER...

THERE ARE NO U-BOATS
IN THIS AREA. ORDER FULL
SPEED, HERR LEUTNANT.
SOUND ACTION STATIONS!



WELL DRILLED FOR SUDDEN ACTION.
THE VETERAN CREW OF SAILFISH
HAD ALREADY BEGUN THEIR
DIVE TO SAFETY ...



THE COMMANDOS IN THE FORWARD
COMPARTMENT HEARD THE DIVING
ORDER WITH MIXED FEELINGS.



THE GERMAN DESTROYER RACED THROUGH THE SEA INTENT UPON MAKING A QUICK AND CERTAIN KILL.

THEY ARE OLD HANDS AT ESCAPING TROUBLE, HERR KAPITAN. ALREADY THEY HAVE MADE THEIR DIVE!

BUT STILL NOT FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE US. WE WILL BLOW THEM OUT OF THE SEA!

SAILFISH CONTINUED HER DESPERATE PLUNGE INTO THE ICY DEPTHS ...

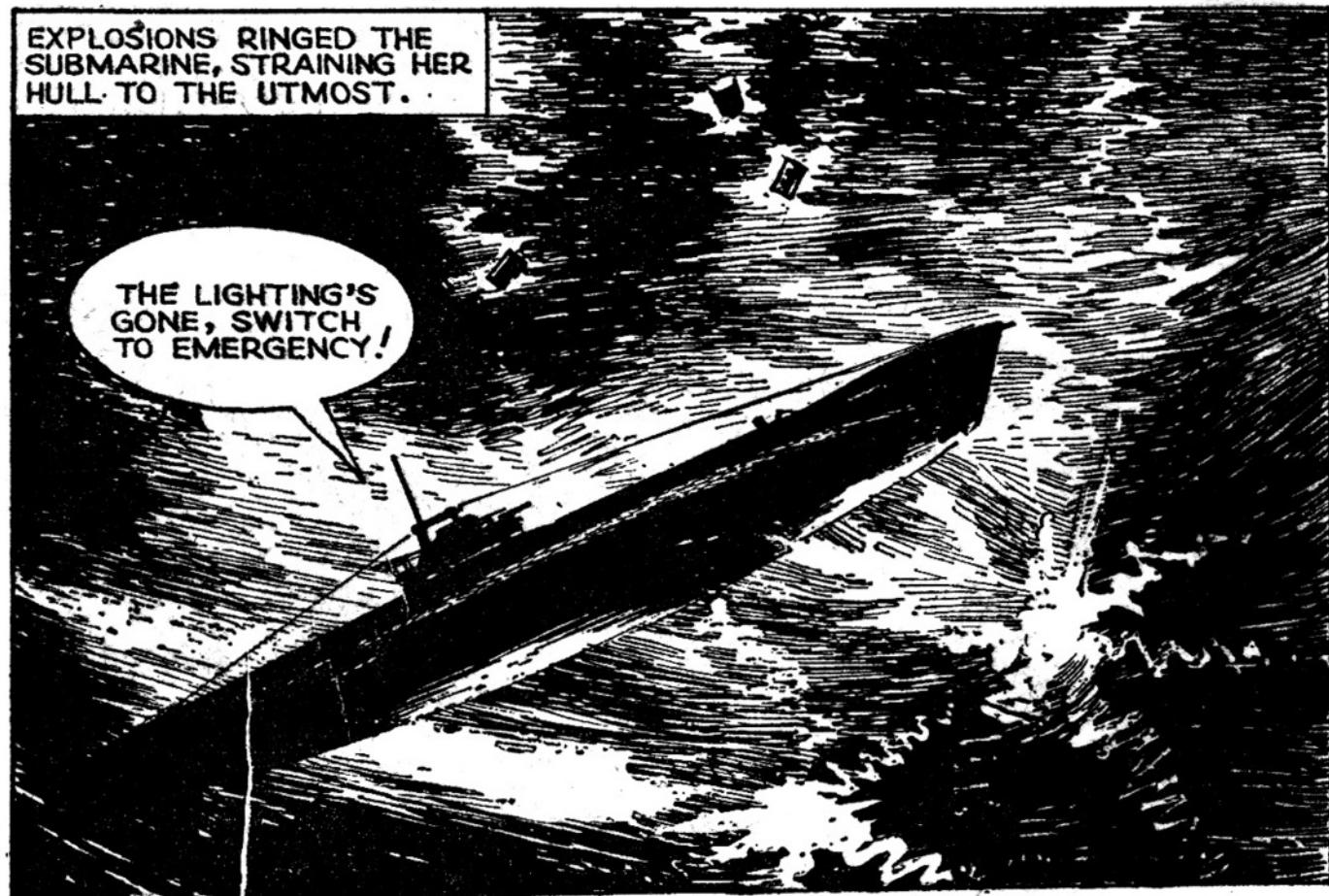
SEVENTY-FIVE FEET, SIR!

LET'S HOPE WE GET TO TWO-HUNDRED FEET AT LEAST BEFORE THEY START DROPPING ASH-CANS ABOUT OUR EARS!

THE DESTROYER ROARED OVERHEAD WITH AN EAR AND NERVE SHATTERING NOISE... LIEUTENANT JOHN GRANGE, COMMANDER OF SAILFISH, KNEW THEIR ORDEAL WAS JUST BEGINNING.

I HOPE OUR PASSENGERS WON'T MIND A LITTLE NOISE...

THIS IS NO WAY TO FIGHT GERMANS... THESE SAILORS REALLY HAVE TO DO IT THE HARD WAY!



THE TORTURED SAILFISH HAD BEEN FLUNG ALMOST ON HER BEAM-ENDS BY THE ACCURATE ATTACK FROM ABOVE. WITH A GRINDING OF STRAINED METAL, VALVES THROUGHOUT THE BOAT BURST, AND SEAMS SPLIT OPEN TO THE SEA ...



MEANWHILE, IN THE SPARE TORPEDOES COMPARTMENT, YET ANOTHER DANGER HAD BEEN CREATED BY THE DEPTH-CHARGING.



Commandos Die Hard

THE WARNING CAME TOO LATE ... THE NEXT PATTERN EXPLODED CLOSE TO THE HULL, FREEING TWO OF THE TORPEDOES. THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM THE LOCKED COMPARTMENT ...



MERCIFULLY, IN THE PAUSE BEFORE THE NEXT ATTACK, THE DECK STEADIED.

HURRY, LADS! MUST SECURE THESE THINGS BEFORE THE NEXT ATTACK.

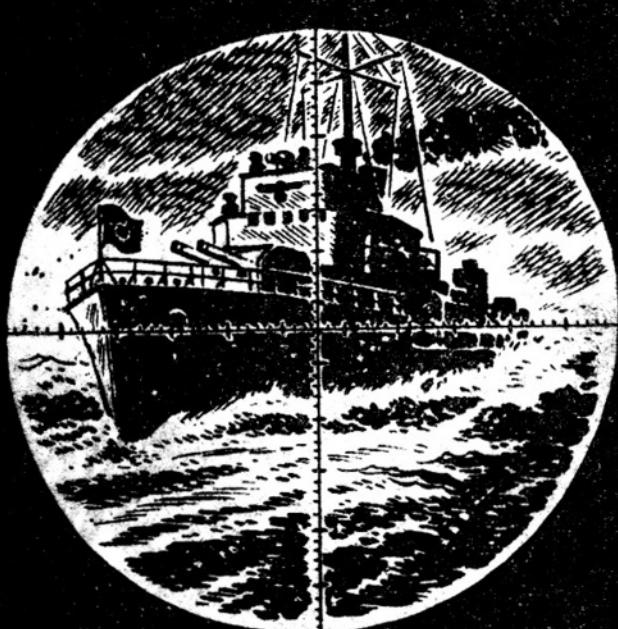
NOW I HAVE ONE MORE REASON TO MEET THE ENEMY!





Commandos Die Hard

...BUT, THROUGH HIS PERISCOPE, GRANGE SAW A SIGHT HE HAD PRAYED TO BE PRESENTED WITH ...



THE ENEMY HAD OFFERED HERSELF AS A TARGET!



WHAT LUCK! STAND BY BOW TORPEDOES ...
FIRE ONE! TWO!
THREE! FOUR!

GRANGE HELD HIS BREATH AS HIS FIRST THREE SNAP SHOTS PASSED HARMLESSLY BEFORE THE DESTROYER'S BOW...THEN THE FINAL TORPEDO CRASHED INTO THE GERMAN AND RIPPED HER APART IN ONE SEARING, SHATTERING EXPLOSION.





AT THAT MOMENT, CAPTAIN SELBY, LEADER OF THE COMMANDO PARTY, EMERGED FROM THE WARDROOM, DRAWN BY THE SOUNDS OF CHEERING.



BUT THE CHEERFUL ATMOSPHERE IN THE CONTROL ROOM VANISHED ABRUPTLY AS A SAILOR BROKE NEWS OF THE PASSENGERS IN THE FORWARD COMPARTMENT...



Commandos Die Hard

THE SUBMARINE CAPTAIN AND COMMANDO OFFICER HURRIED ANXIOUSLY TO THE FORWARD COMPARTMENT.

HOW BAD IS IT, NELSON?

TWELVE INJURED, SIR. TWO SERIOUSLY. BROKEN AND CRUSHED LIMBS AND RIBS...



THE INJURED COMMANDOS WERE REMOVED TO THE TINY SICK-BAY. GRIMLY THE SURVIVORS STOOD IN LINE BEFORE THE TWO SERIOUS OFFICERS.



Commandos Die Hard

21

THE COMMANDOS NODDED ASSENT AS ONE MAN.
THEY HAD NOT THOUGHT OF GIVING UP!

"WE CAN STILL
SHOW 'EM, SIR!"

INDEED, IT WILL
BE A PLEASURE TO
SEE WHAT ONE
HAS TO FIGHT!

THE FEWER MEN
THE BETTER CHANCE,
IN MY OPINION!

COMMANDO

LIEUTENANT GRANGE WAS LEFT IN NO DOUBT THAT THE
MEN BEFORE HIM WOULD TACKLE ANY TASK.

THEN THE DAWN LANDING AT THE FIORD
GOES ON AS PLANNED! BETTER PREPARE
YOURSELVES WITH A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
I'LL SEE THAT YOU LEAVE WITH THE
BEST MEAL UNDER YOUR BELTS
THAT SAILFISH'S COOK HAS
EVER MUSTERED.

NOT A CASE OF
THE CONDEMNED
MEN ATE HEARTY
BREAKFASTS,
I HOPE, SIR!

Chapter 2. WAR ON SKIS

THE ICY WATERS OF VESTING FIORD WERE LIT BY THE GREY LIGHT OF THE ARCTIC DAWN AS THE LITTLE GROUP OF DEDICATED MEN TOOK TO THEIR COLLAPSIBLE BOATS...

PILE IN, MEN! HERE WE COME, HAMMERFEST AIRFIELD!

BRR! WHY DID I LEAVE THE LEGION?
IT WAS NEVER LIKE THIS IN THE SAHARA!

WITHIN MINUTES, THE LITTLE BOATS HAD PADDLED AWAY FROM THE SUBMARINE.

SAILFISH WILL REMAIN SUBMERGED HERE FOR EXACTLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. REMEMBER THE SIGNAL WHEN YOU RETURN--
XKP! AND GIVE 'EM HELL FOR US!

THE COMMANDOS WERE SOON STANDING ON THE WHITE FROZEN WASTE THAT WAS NORTHERN NORWAY. THE FOLDING BOATS WERE BURIED UNDER DEEP SNOW...

THERE GOES THE SUB!

WE'LL SEE HER AGAIN
TOMORROW... BY THEN THE
GERMANS WILL KNOW WE
CALLED! LET'S MOVE!



...SO THE SECRET TREK TO HAMMERFEST STARTED...

FOUR HOURS STEADY GOING
WILL GET US TO THAT AIRFIELD.
THEN WE WAIT OUR CHANCE
TO ATTACK... CAMOUFLAGED
AS SNOW.



EVERY MAN WAS AN EXPERT SKIER.
GOOD PROGRESS WAS MADE...



Commandos Die Hard

A FEW MILES AWAY, COLONEL ZIMMER OF THE LUFTWAFFE WAS ENTERTAINING HIS PILOTS IN THE OFFICERS MESS AT HAMMERFEST AIRFIELD.

GENTLEMEN WARRIORS OF THE GLORIOUS THIRD REICH! THE BRITISH FOOLS HAVE SENT US ANOTHER CONVOY TO SMASH... TOMORROW IT WILL BE WITHIN RANGE OF OUR AIRCRAFT. I GIVE YOU A TOAST... *GOOD HUNTING!*



THE ELATED GERMAN PILOTS LEAPED TO THEIR FEET AT THE NEWS ...

MAY OUR SUCCESS BE EVEN GREATER THAN THE LAST CRUSHING DEFEAT WE INFILCTED ON BRITISH SHIPPING!



THAT IS BOUND TO HAPPEN! NOW LET US DINE AND THEN SLEEP LONG. TOMORROW WE SHALL EARN FRESH GLORY!

THERE WAS NO SUMPTUOUS MEAL FOR CAPTAIN SELBY AND HIS MEN. CROUCHED TOGETHER FOR WARMTH IN A SNOW HOLLOW, THEY CHEWED ON IRON RATIONS.

TIME UP! WE'VE GOT A DATE TO KEEP WITH SOME JERRIES. SOON WE'LL SIGHT HAMMERFEST FIORD. THEN THEY'LL WONDER WHAT'S HIT 'EM!

AS THEY PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY, ONE OF THE COMMANDOS SLIPPED OFF HIS HEAVY MITTS TO ADJUST A SKI STRAP...

PUT ON YOUR GLOVES, YOU FOOL! NO ONE REMOVES CLOTHING UP HERE ... IT MEANS CERTAIN FROSTBITE! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MORE MEN!



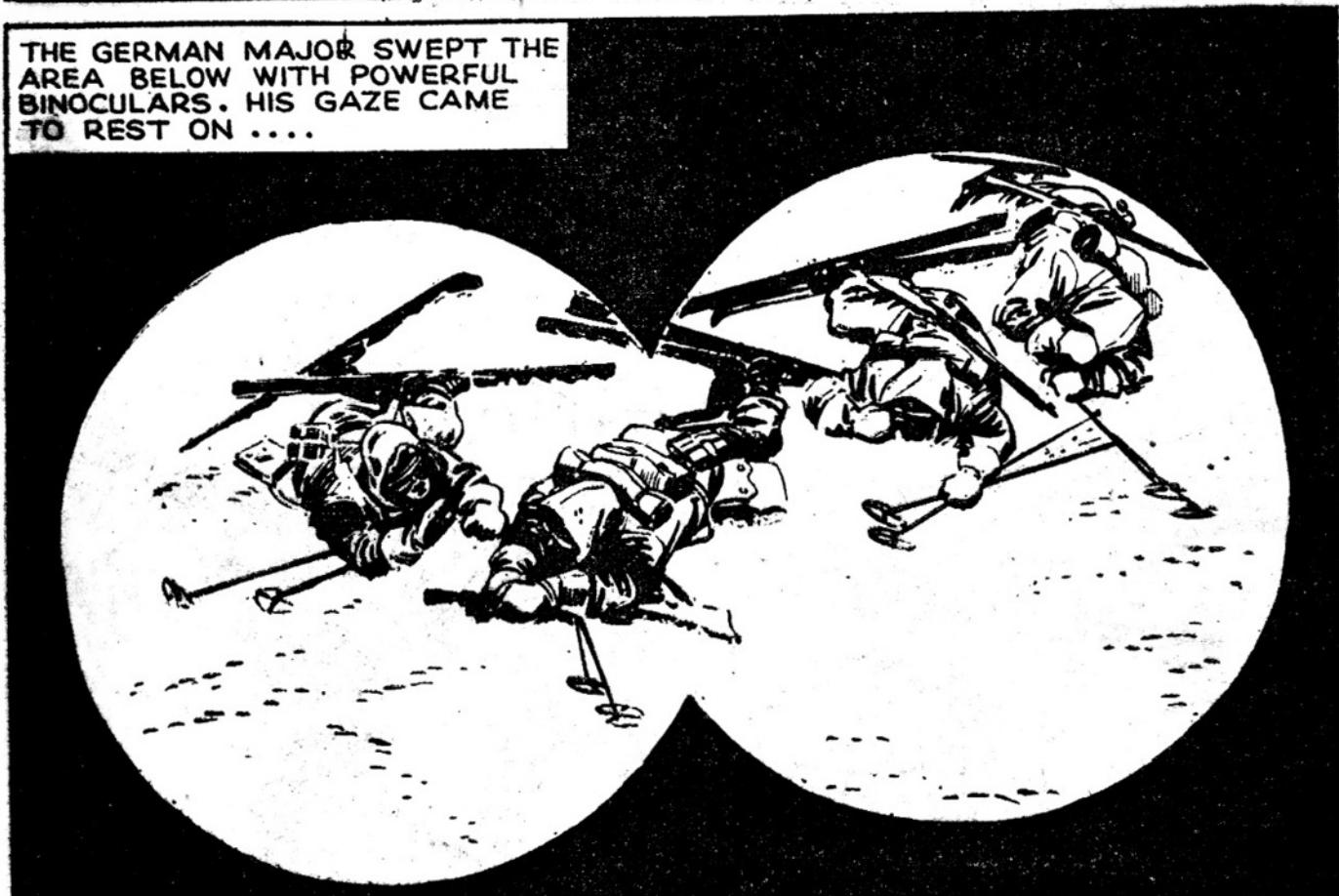
... BUT THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMANDOS WAS AT THAT MOMENT SWITCHED TO AN EVEN GREATER MENACE THAN FROSTBITE!

SOMEONE ON THE RIDGE, SIR!

JERRIES, BY THUNDER!

EVERYBODY DOWN! TAKE COVER IN THE SNOW!





...THE COMMANDOS HUGGED THE SNOW, DESPERATELY HOPING AGAINST DISCOVERY.



THE GERMAN MAJOR ISSUED CURT ORDERS TO THE WAITING OFFICERS ...



A WHOLE BATTALION AGAINST EIGHT MEN! THE GERMAN HORDE SWEPT DOWN FROM THE CREST!



Commandos Die Hard



Commandos Die Hard

29



Commandos Die Hard.



YET ANOTHER MAN WENT DOWN UNDER THE HEAVY FIRE THAT FOLLOWED THE ESCAPING COMMANDOS. NOW JUST THE THREE FRIENDS REMAINED OF THE ORIGINAL PARTY OF TWENTY!

THEY'VE HIT BILL!

REMEMBER OUR LAST ORDER... WE CAN'T STOP NOW!

HARD-PRESSED BY THE ENEMY, A PAUSE WOULD HAVE MEANT CERTAIN DEATH.

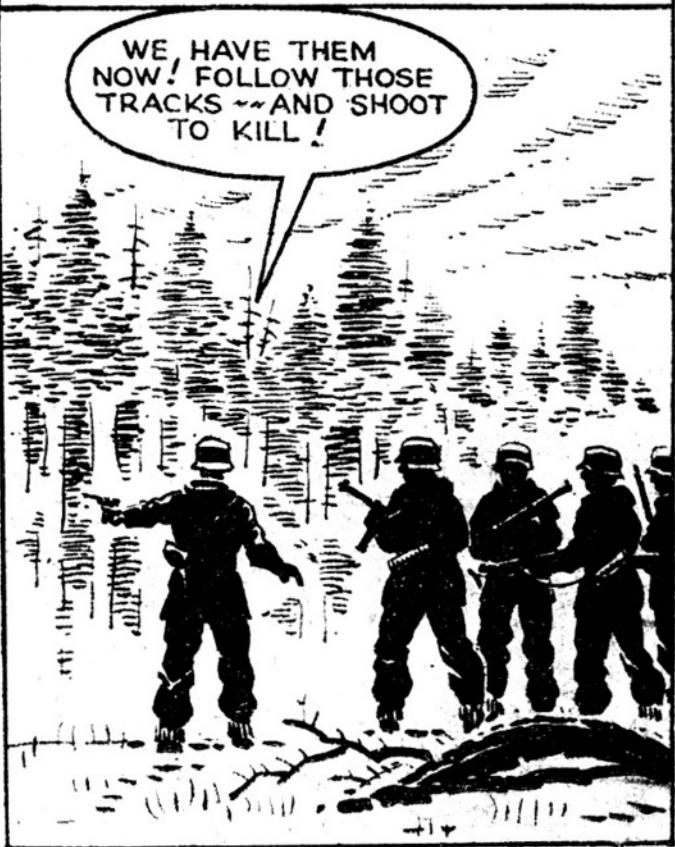
INTO THOSE TREES! WE'LL TRY AND DODGE 'EM IN THERE!

Commandos Die Hard

LIKE HUNTED ANIMALS, THE THREE SURVIVORS HURRIED DEEP INTO THE SHELTER OF THE SNOW-LADEN FIRS . . .



BUT THE TELL-TALE MARKS OF THE SKIS HAD GIVEN THE COMMANDOS AWAY . . .



THE GOING BECAME HARDER. LAFARGE FLOUNDERED WAIST DEEP IN THE SOFT SNOW OF A LITTLE CLEARING. THE RESOLUTE PURSUITERS DREW CLOSER . . .



WHILE NELSON, WITH A GIANT'S STRENGTH, EXTRICATED LAFARGE, FULLER, A CRACK SHOT, GAVE THE GERMANS A LESSON IN CALM, DELIBERATE SHOOTING.

FOOLS! SHOOT THEM DOWN!
ARE YOU SUCH COWARDS?

GREAT SHOOTING, BRAINS!



UNDER THE WHIP-LASH OF THEIR OFFICER'S TONGUE, THE NAZI TROOPS ATTACKED.

WELL! WELL!
THEY'VE DECIDED
TO PLAY... MAKE
EVERY SHOT
COUNT!

OBVIOUSLY
THEIR OFFICER
IS A FOOL!
THIS IS TOO
EASY!



THE GROUPED COMMANDOS LOOSED A WITHERING BLAST OF BULLETS!

THIS IS FOR
MY GOOD FRIENDS
WHO ARE NO
LONGER WITH
US!



Commandos Die Hard

THE GERMANS WHO ESCAPED THE FUSILLADE RETREATED TO THE TREES ...

THAT'S SATISFIED THEM!
LET'S PUSH ON BEFORE
THE NEXT BATCH ARRIVES.

WITH DUE RESPECT,
CORP., THIS IS WHERE
BRAINS COME BEFORE
BRAWN! MAY I SAY
WHAT I THINK?





Commandos Die Hard

THE COMMANDOS LEFT THE WOOD UNDETECTED. BUT AS THEY RESTED
BENEATH A CORNICE OF SNOW THEY FOUND THE SEARCH CONTINUING.



THE MORE TRACKS
THEY MAKE, THE
BETTER FOR US!

RESTED AND REFRESHED, NELSON NOW
TURNED TO THE BUSINESS AHEAD ...

ALL CLEAR BELOW, CORPORAL.
THEY'VE GONE TO SEARCH
ELSEWHERE, THE FOOLS!



THEN IT'S NEXT
STOP HAMMERFEST
AIRFIELD! THERE WE
GET OUR OWN BACK!

Chapter 3. IN ENEMY GUISE

THE THREE DETERMINED MEN MADE GOOD PROGRESS. SOON THEY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF KIRCHEN VILLAGE, A STRAGGLE OF WOODEN HOUSES NOT FAR FROM THEIR AIRFIELD OBJECTIVE!



BUT ENEMY EYES WERE UPON THE COMMANDOS



Commandos Die Hard

THE LONE GERMAN SOLDIER CREEPT SILENTLY FORWARD. HE ROSE TO HIS FEET BUT YARDS BELOW THE UNSUSPECTING COMMANDOS...



RAISE YOUR ARMS, ENGLANDERS! ONE TRICK AND I KILL YOU ALL! LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS AND SKIS... YOU WILL NOT NEED THEM NOW!

CAPTURED! LAFARGE'S EYES BLAZED HATRED AT THE THOUGHT!



...CAN'T RISK A SHOT HERE ~ WOULD BRING 'EM ALL RUNNING... WE'LL HAVE TO TRAP THIS HUN SOME OTHER WAY!

THE ELATED GERMAN MARCHED HIS PRISONERS THROUGH THE SNOW GULLY TOWARDS THE VILLAGE...

AT THE NEXT BEND... I'M GOING TO JUMP HIM!



BUT, UNEXPECTEDLY, HELP CAME TO SAVE NELSON
THE DANGEROUS TASK OF SURPRISING HIS CAPTOR.



NO FELDWEBEL'S CHEVRONS FOR THE
GERMAN NOW! HE DROPPED MOTIONLESS
TO THE SNOW.



LUCKILY FOR THE COMMANDOS, LARSEN
HAD HEARD THE NOISE OF THE RUNNING
FIGHT EARLIER AND HAD INVESTIGATED.
HEARING NELSON'S STORY, HE
PROMISED FURTHER HELP.

BEYOND THAT MOUNTAIN IS
HAMMERFEST. IT IS NOT THE EASY
WAY--BUT IT IS THE SHORTEST AND
SAFEST! NO GERMAN WOULD SUSPECT
YOU OF TRYING IT. AND I WILL GUIDE
YOU...IF YOU CARE TO RISK THE CLIMB.



Commandos Die Hard



THE FOUR MEN SKIED RAPIDLY
TOWARDS THE SNOW PLAIN
BELOW . . .

THIS IS
THE PART
I LIKE!

... BUT SUDDENLY LAFARGE'S LEFT
SKI SNAPPED! HE WAS CATAPOULTED
HEADLONG INTO A MOUND OF SNOW . . .



Commandos Die Hard

LAFARGE'S FALL CAUSED A MINOR AVALANCHE THAT COVERED THE FRENCHMAN COMPLETELY. HIS COMRADES TORE AT THE SNOW DESPERATELY....



THE BURIED MAN'S LEGS CAME TO LIGHT. MORE FURIOUS DIGGING PRODUCED A STILL-GRINNING LAFARGE !



BUT WHEN THE GALLANT FRENCHMAN ROSE TO PROVE HIS WORDS ... HE STOOD SHIVERING VIOLENTLY ...



THE GRIM WORDS OF THE EXPERIENCED NORWEGIAN HORRIFIED THE TOUGH COMMANDOS ...

IT WOULD BE SUICIDE TO LIGHT A FIRE -- EVEN IF WE COULD!



LARSEN GUIDED THE MEN TO THE EMPTY HUT WHERE THEY RESTED WHILE LAFARGE'S CLOTHES WERE DRIED. BUT LATER THERE CAME AN INTERRUPTION ...

WE HAVE VISITORS ... FOUR OF THE ENEMY! THEY ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE!



THE ARRIVING GERMANS WERE NEWCOMERS TO NORWAY, MERELY OUT FOR SOME OFF-DUTY SKI-ING.

I AM NUMB WITH COLD. LET'S CALL UPON THIS NORWEGIAN AND BORROW HIS FIRE!



Commandos Die Hard



Commandos Die Hard

45

THE CAPTIVES WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR UNIFORMS AND BOUND HAND AND FOOT BEFORE THE STOVE.

WE COULD BE SHOT FOR WEARING THESE . . . BUT IT'S A GOOD IDEA, BRAINS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THE AIRFIELD NOW, WITHOUT BEING QUESTIONED!



THE FOUR FRIENDS CONTINUED THEIR JOURNEY...AS LUFTWAFFE SKI-TRIPPERS . . .

NOW TO LOOK
OVER THAT AIRFIELD.
THERE ARE ONLY FOUR
OF US . . . BUT SOMEHOW
WE MUST PUT THE
PLACE OUT OF
ACTION.



Chapter 4. COMMANDO ATTACK

AT THE AIRFIELD COLONEL ZIMMER HEARD THE NEWS THAT COMMANDOS WERE NEAR HIS BASE. WITH THE CONVOY ATTACK SET FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HE COULD TAKE NO CHANCES.

AFTER SEVERAL RUNNING BATTLES, HERR COLONEL, MY MEN KILLED FOUR OF THESE BRITISH THUGS. ONE WAS TAKEN ALIVE. UNDER PRESSURE HE CLAIMED THEY HAD LANDED TO ENCOURAGE NORWEGIAN RESISTANCE. BUT AT LEAST THREE OF THEM ARE AT LARGE

I SHALL ORDER THE GUARDS HERE TO BE READY IN CASE THIS IS MORE SERIOUS THAN WE THINK. WE CANNOT RISK AN ATTACK--NOT AT THIS TIME!

AT THAT MOMENT NELSON AND HIS STALWARTS HAD ARRIVED AT THE WIRE SURROUNDING THE AIRFIELD!

THOSE AIRCRAFT ARE TOO SPREAD OUT AND WELL GUARDED FOR US FOUR TO TACKLE ... WE HAVE TO THINK OUT A WAY TO EVEN THE ODDS!





THE PLAN FULLER HAD CONCEIVED BECAME CLEAR TO THE OTHERS ...



Commandos Die Hard

49

THEN, THE FOUR MEN WERE DISTURBED BY THE UNEXPECTED ROAR OF AN APPROACHING MOTOR VEHICLE...

IT WILL BE THE SUPPLY TRUCK BRINGING FRESH FISH FROM HAMMERFEST...



THE SIGHT OF THE TRUCK GERMINATED ANOTHER IDEA IN FULLER'S FERTILE BRAIN...

...AND THERE IS OUR PASSPORT TO THE AIRFIELD!

THEY'RE STUCK IN A DRIFT!



Commandos Die Hard

THE TWO GERMANS WITH THE TRUCK GRUMBLED AS THEY DUG AT THE SNOW-DRIFT THAT HAD DELAYED THEM.

THIS CURSED COUNTRY!
JUST WHEN WE WERE NEAR TO OUR WARM BILLETS ...

THEY SEEM TO BE IN TROUBLE.
LET'S GO DOWN AND GIVE 'EM A HAND!

SILENTLY AND SWIFTLY,
THE COMMANDOS STRUCK ...

DON'T HURT THEM, BOYS!
WE'LL NEED THEM TO DRIVE US RIGHT THROUGH THE MAIN GATE!

WORKING WITH A WILL, THE COMMANDOS SOON FREED THE TRUCK AND IT CONTINUED ITS JOURNEY ... BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE !

JUST DRIVE UP AS IF YOU WERE DELIVERING THE FISH FOR TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST, COMRADES ... AND NO TRICKS !



THE TRUCK ENTERED THE CAMP GATES ... THEN, ON FULLER'S SNAPPED ORDER, RUMBLED TOWARDS THE 88 M.M. GUN EMPLACEMENT...

HIMMEL ! HAS HELMUTH LOST HIS SENSES ? THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO THE COOKHOUSE ...

ACHTUNG ! THERE ARE MEN IN THE REAR OF THAT TRUCK !



Commandos Die Hard



THE FOUR ATTACKERS HURLED THEMSELVES FROM THE TRUCK AS IT PASSED THE GUN ...

LET'S GET THAT
GUN INTO
ACTION!



ON
TARGET!

THIS IS
IT....
FIRE!

FOUR SHELLS RIPPED SAVAGELY IN QUICK
SUCCESSION INTO THE HEART OF THE
BUILDING ... AND INSIDE PANIC AND
UTTER CONFUSION REIGNED !

EVERYONE
REMAIN
CALM !

AAAEGH!
THE ROOF ... IT'S
COLLAPSING !



Commandos Die Hard

SUDDENLY, WITH A SHATTERING CRASH, THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING CAVED INWARDS... BUT NOW NELSON AND HIS MEN HAD COME UNDER A HEAVY RETURN FIRE!



THE UNDISCIPLINED RUSH OF THE LUFTWAFFE GUARDS WAVERED BEFORE THE COMBINED FIRE OF THE FOUR VETERANS... BUT A NEW, DEADLIER, FOE APPEARED ...



NELSON AND FULLER SCRAMBLED BACK TO THEIR GUN POSITIONS...
AND THE 88 M.M. ROARED INTO ACTION AS THE GERMAN TANK
FIRED ITS SECOND SHELL AT THE EMPLACEMENT...



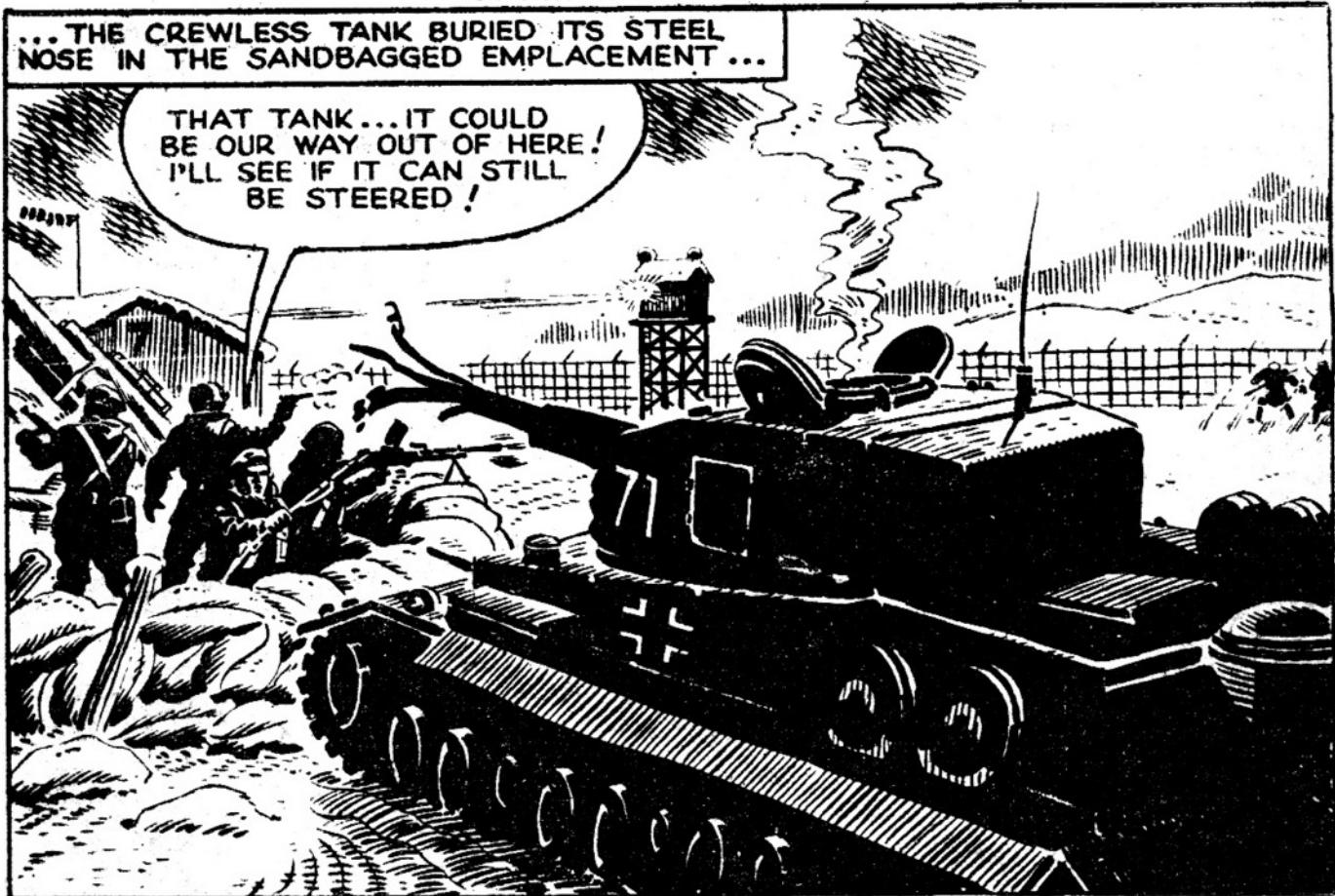
...BOTH SHELLS STRUCK HOME!



Commandos Die Hard

THE FOUR DAZED MEN FORCED THEMSELVES TO THEIR FEET TO SEE THE DISABLED TANK STILL CLANKING TOWARDS THEIR SHATTERED GUN POSITION ...





Commandos Die Hard

LAFARGE'S BULLETS CUT THROUGH THE ADVANCING GERMANS LIKE A SCYTHE! BUT A WELL-AIMED BLAST FROM A SENTRY TOWER STRUCK THE FRENCHMAN MORTALLY...

THEY'VE GOT LAFARGE!

LEAVE ME, ED! THIS IS IT... GOOD LUCK, BOYS!

NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR THE DYING FRENCHMAN. THE TANK ROARED ACROSS THE AIRFIELD...AND BEHIND IT, THE GALLANT LAFARGE FIRED HIS LAST SHOTS...

STEER FOR THE AIRCRAFT...WE'LL GET SOME FOR LAFARGE!

HANG ON TO YOUR HATS!

UNDER NELSON'S GUIDANCE, FULLER WEAVED THE TANK TOWARDS THE OPPOSITE WIRE OF THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER ... BEHIND, IT LEFT A TRAIL OF WRECKED AIRCRAFT AND SHAKEN GROUND CREW.

HEAD FOR THAT HANGAR! WE'LL WARM THINGS UP FOR THESE FROZEN SQUAREHEADS...THEN GO THROUGH THE WIRE!



Commandos Die Hard

CORPORAL NELSON LOBBED HIS LAST GRENADE
NEATLY AT THE PYRAMID OF PETROL DRUMS...

FULL SPEED, BRAINS!
LET'S GET AWAY
FROM HERE!

EEEAAAGH!
THE PETROL!
RUN FOR YOUR
LIVES!



Commandos Die Hard

61

LEAVING THE WRECKED AND BURNING AIRFIELD BEHIND, THE TANK PLUNGED THROUGH THE WIRE INTO DEEP SNOW...

THEY DON'T
SEEM TO
LIKE US!

IT HAS BEEN GOOD
KNOWING YOU... NOW
LET US GET SOME
MORE OF THEM!

MAKE EVERY
BULLET COUNT!

BUT EVEN AS THE GERMANS CLOSED
IN FOR THE KILL, OTHERS TOOK A
PART IN THE DESPERATE FIGHT.

FORWARD!
THESE ARE INDEED
FRIENDS WHO NEED
OUR HELP!

IT WAS A PATROL OF
NORWEGIAN RESISTANCE
MEN.

THE ALREADY DEMORALISED
GERMANS FELL BACK UNDER THE
HOT FIRE OF THE NORWEGIAN
SKI PATROLLERS

MY FRIEND OF
THE SKI PATROL.
NEVER WAS A SIGHT
MORE WELCOME!

TALK LATER,
YOU TWO...LET'S
GET AWAY FROM
HERE. I'VE GOT A
DATE WITH A
SUBMARINE!



GUIDED SWIFTLY AND EXPERTLY BY THE NORWEGIANS, NELSON AND FULLER HAD REACHED THEIR RENDEZVOUS WITH *SAILFISH* BEFORE DAWN ...



THE TWO WEARY COMMANDOS THANKFULLY BOARDED THE *SAILFISH*. IT SEEMED A LIFETIME SINCE THEY HAD LEFT HER BUT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE ...



AND WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF THE COMMANDOS' EXPLOIT, A LARGE CONVOY ROUNDED NORTH CAPE ON THEIR VITAL JOURNEY TO RUSSIA
FREE FROM AIR ATTACK!

THIS IS WHERE WE
USUALLY GET THE WHOLE
JERRY AIR FORCE AFTER
US... WONDER WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO 'EM?

WE'LL REALLY DELIVER
THE GOODS THIS TRIP!
HERE'S TO WHATEVER'S
STOPPED THOSE HUN
BOMBERS!

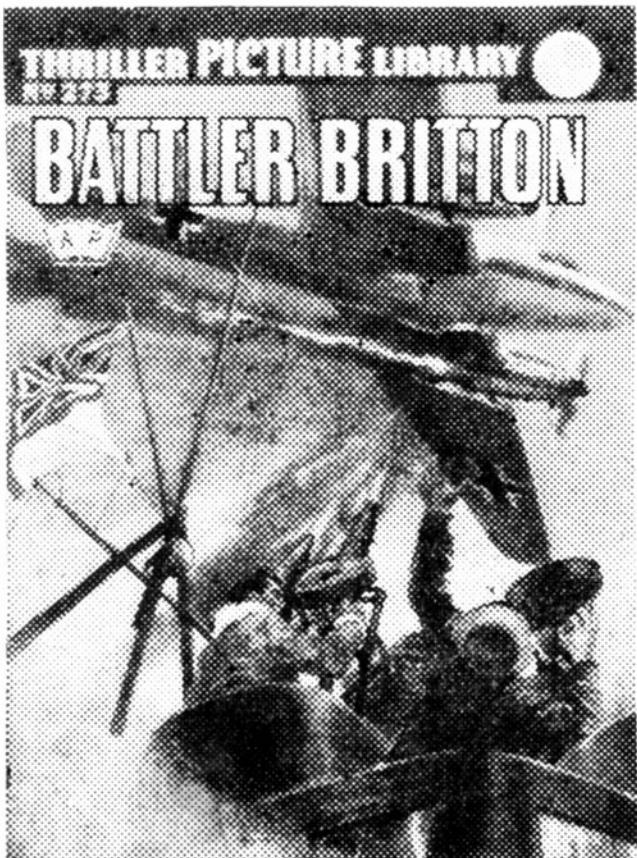


Printed in England by Messrs. Percy Brothers Ltd., Manchester 1, and published on the third Thursday in each month by The Amalgamated Press, Ltd., The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Advertisement Offices: Tallis House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4. Sole Agents: Australasia, Messrs. Gordon & Gotch, Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency, Ltd.; Federation of Rhodesia and Nyassaland, Messrs. Kingtons, Ltd. WAR PICTURE LIBRARY is sold subject to the following conditions, that it shall not, without the written consent of the Publishers first given, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of by way of Trade except at the full retail price as shown on the cover; and that it shall not be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise disposed of in a mutilated condition, or in any unauthorised cover by way of Trade; or affixed to or as part of any publication or advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

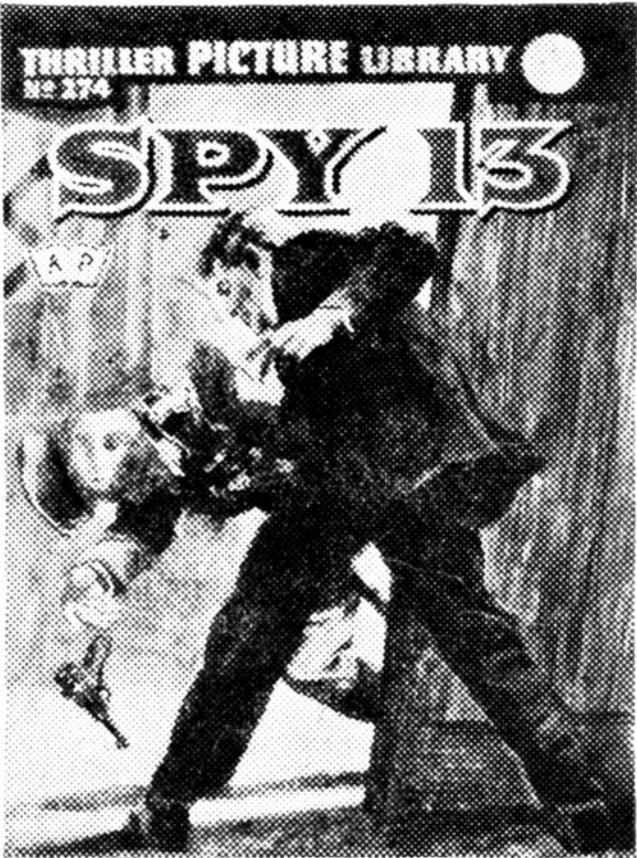
21.5.59.

ON SALE NOW

THRILLER PICTURE LIBRARY



Thriller Picture Library No. 273
BATTLER BRITTON: Three
daring exploits of England's
fighting ace of land, sea, and air.



Thriller Picture Library No. 274
SPY 13: The master spy of M.I.5
in two exciting, action-filled
war stories.

ALSO ON SALE NOW—

THRILLER PICTURE LIBRARY

No. 271 ROBIN HOOD

No. 272 DICK DARING OF THE MOUNTIES

There are four new **THRILLER PICTURE LIBRARIES**
on sale **THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH**



The Royal Air Force FLYING Review has so many exciting features that you MUST read a copy ! Plenty of good photographs and factual articles are backed up with true-life stories of adventurous exploits. Every page is a pleasure to read, and you'll want to keep every issue. No wonder R.A.F. FLYING Review is Europe's biggest selling air magazine !

Free Booklet Offer !

Also—we'll tell you of our special introductory offer which includes—FREE OF CHARGE our "FAMOUS PLANES OF WORLD WAR I" booklet—32 pages of photos and data you'll be glad to keep by you for reference !



WRITE NOW

To : R.A.F. FLYING REVIEW 109-119 Waterloo Road,
London, S.E.1



Please send FREE COPY of R.A.F. FLYING Review, and details of special introductory offer, including free "FAMOUS PLANES OF WORLD WAR I" booklet to :

Name 

Address 

W.P.L.59